



Getting Started:

- What was your favorite part of school when you were growing up? Do you still enjoy this as an adult?
- Have you ever gotten lost in a strange area? How did you find your way back to the main road?

Going Deeper:

- What is God showing you this week as you read his Word and pray?
- What decisions or life struggles do you need Biblical direction or prayer for?

Message Summary

Psalm 5:1-12

March 21, 2021

This week, we had the privilege of hearing from our very own Scott Miller who is one of our Life Group coaches. Scott continued our journey through the book of Psalms. This has been an opportunity for some of our elders, staff, and other pastors here at Gateway to fill the pulpit. By doing this, we allow Pastor Josh to not only take a break from preaching, but also help train and equip others to preach and teach the Word.

We were challenged to imagine a maze. This maze is a representation of our life. Every maze has a starting point and an ending. Our journey starts when we accept Jesus as our personal savior and we complete the maze upon our physical death here on earth. The blue line represents the path that

God has planned out for our lives. As we go through life, we may have delays, detours, turning points and even face dead ends.

There are four different points that represent your relationship with God in the maze. Point A is designated for those who have not committed their lives to Jesus. These people think they know what is best for them in this life -OR- they have decided they will never be good enough to travel on God's path because they have done so many bad things that they don't deserve to be in God's family. Sadly, they will remain outside of the maze as well as the plan and will God has for their life. Point B represents the true Christ follower who has chosen to pick up their cross and follow him. The path these individuals take is guided by their trust in the Lord and the Word of God. We see this as a red line in the maze. Point C shows us the path of the believer who has gotten off God's path. Some are enticed and pulled away by the world. Because of this, these people have made some bad decisions in their life, but they know God is still with them. They are just blind to the truth at this moment. Now point D represents the believer who has ventured far away from God and the path he desires for them. They struggle to hear God's voice because they have allowed other things to become idols and objects of worship in their lives. The danger is that a life lived this way is vulnerable to evil and its destructive forces.

Can you identify with one of those four points?

A: I'm outside of God's Kingdom....nonbeliever

B: I'm living in God's will and I'm worshipping him more than anything else

C: I'm a believer but I've started to flirt w the world and my own ways

D: I'm a believer but I've lost my way and I need to find my way back home.

As we examine our Psalm, we will see that there is good news and bad news. In the first few verses, we see David getting God's attention (just like a child turning your head so you pay attention to them). David is frustrated by the evil in the world and he is looking for something different. *"It's kind of like, 'Hey God, are you listening? Please pay attention!!!!' Well, be encouraged because God wants us to pray and he is paying attention. Even when we don't know what to say, God's listening. Talk to him like you would a friend. God will make sense of your ramblings; he is your King and your God."* Moving forward, we see verses 4-6 talking about God vs evil. To better understand this, we need to first define evil. Evil was described as the act of worshiping or preferring something more than God. It is an issue of worship because we exchange God's glory for a lie!

So what is the good news? In verses 7-8 after David asks to be led, we see that God has given us his Spirit to help and guide us to the good God wants for us. This is very good news because we live in such an evil world and the Spirit will help give us wisdom and direction and make our paths straight when we come to roadblocks and detours in life. *"God will lead us!! Wherever you are at in the maze, he will lead you if you will worship him. You have enemies out there and you can't walk this life on your own. We need God and we need each other. God works through his people to guide and*

direct them along this path. God will lead us if we will only LISTEN, REPENT, SUBMIT, AND FOLLOW!!!”

David then reveals the consciences of evil. He reminds those listening that there will be a price to pay for their choice to worship other things over God. *“David is saying, ‘OK God, you hate evil so much, so make them pay!!!’ So do you see the progression in the consequences of evil; You will bear your own guilt. You will fall by your own counsels. And finally, you will be cast out from God’s presence. Now, God doesn’t want any of these things to happen to his children but when we choose to live our lives outside of God’s will, he will allow us to experience the consequences of our sin. He doesn’t want us to bear guilt, he doesn’t want us to fall or to be cast out. He wants us to live on this line and that is why he has given us his Spirit and his Word.”*

The psalm concludes by revealing the results of following God’s way. Things turn from destruction and misery to rejoicing and singing for joy. There is protection from evil and blessings and favor from the God who created everything. We were challenged in the end to evaluate and recognize where we were in the maze, remembering no matter at what point we are at, all we need to do is humble ourselves and seek his face because he is the way maker.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to read our sermon text:

Psalm 5:1-12

After briefly reviewing the message summary, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas.1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your life group, select the questions that will best help you frame the group’s discussion of this sermon and sermon text.

GENERAL SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the key message of these verses? Explain why you think this.
2. After hearing the message and reading the scriptures, what was your biggest takeaway and why?
3. In what ways do these truths, which were written thousands of years ago, apply today?
4. Which point in the sermon spoke to you the most? How did it affect you?
5. In what ways do these passages point to Christ? What can we share with others about him from what we just heard and read?

Read Psalm 5:1-12, John 3:16

1. What did the maze symbolize in our time together? What is the starting point? What does the exit represent in our life?
2. We saw two lines in the maze. What does the red line represent? How about the blue line?
3. We were introduced to four different points. Take time to briefly define each one.
4. Could you pinpoint where you are in your maze? What point did you identify with the most and why?
5. How do we know David was trying to get God’s attention? Do you talk to God as boldly as David? How can we confidently know that God is listening to us?

Read Psalm 5:1-3, Romans 1:21-23

6. What is the core essence of evil? In what way are idols evil?

Read Psalm 5:4-6

7. What does God think of evil? Why does it matter what we worship? If we are honest, what have we placed before God at times?

Read Psalm 5:7-8, Psalm 23:1-4

8. Who did God give us to guide us in this life? In what ways does this bring you comfort? What must we do?

Read Psalm 5:9-10, Romans 3:10-18, 1 John 1:9-10.

10. What is the consequence of evil? What does David encourage God to do? How does restoration begin?

Read Psalm 5:11-12, Romans 10:9

11. What are the benefits of following God’s way? What does God want for his children?
12. How do confession and humility play a part in our restoration?

The Challenge - Life Application

- ❑ Read the passages used in this week's message. Write down any scriptures you need to be reminded of on sticky notes and place them around the house. Try to memorize as many as you can.
- ❑ Reflect on the message and ask God to give you his strength as you follow him.
- ❑ Pray that, as Christ-followers, we would reflect the change God has made in us.
- ❑ Go back and listen or watch the sermon if you missed it or you need to be reminded of its truths.

Weekly Prayer Focus

Pray for Our Church:

- Ask God to use us as instruments for His purpose and glory.
- Pray that we are a GOING church, proclaiming the gospel to the nations.
- Ask God to help each of us to live a life that reflects him.
- Pray for all of our campuses.
- Pray for our pastors and leadership here at Gateway.

Pray for Our City:

- The government and civic leaders
- Those in need in our community and the services that help them
- The fire and police departments
- Schools, students, and teachers

Pray for Our World:

- Pray for the Christ-followers in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
- Pray for all of those who are being persecuted in harm's way for the Kingdom.
- Pray that the message of Christ will reach all of mankind.

Pray for Life Groups at Gateway:

- Pray for those who are leading our groups.
- Pray that everyone involved in our groups would continue to be rooted in the Word and connected to each other.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers and that we will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for discipleship opportunities.